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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)  All the necessary approvals from the different government agencies such as the Swedish Data Inspection Board, the Swedish Cancer Registry, the Swedish Death Registry and the Swedish Emigration Registry have been procured. Two abstractors have been employed and are presently working in the different archives. They are presently retrieving information from the ledgers and also tracing the women through the population ledgers. Until now, May 1, just over 100,000 female births have been assessed yielding the expected number of those born extreme premature and/or with a birth weight less than 2,000 grams. Thus, the retrieval process is within the framework of the time plan in our proposal and the tracing will be completed in April, 2000.				
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**Introduction**

In order to test the hypothesis of an association between high/low hormone levels early in life and breast cancer we are planning to follow up a cohort of women born before the 35<sup>th</sup> gestational week and/or with a birth weight under 2,000 gram. This will be done by manually scrutinizing 290,000 birth charts of women born between the years 1925 to 1949 in central Sweden and following them up for the occurrence of breast cancer.

**Body**

The tasks as they are outlined in the approved Statement of Work:

Task 1: Apply to, and negotiate with, the Swedish Data Inspection Board for permission to link the cohort with the Swedish Cancer Registry, the Swedish Death Registry and the Swedish Emigration Registry. This has been completed and the linkage will be done as soon as the cohort is defined.

Task 2: The employment of two abstractors for the field work in the different archives is done. Ms. Incan Gedin and Ms. Margareta Andersson are presently employed full-time for this purpose.

Task 3: The retrieval of information from the ledgers has started and are on its way. Until May 1, 1999, just over 100,000 birth charts of female births during the time period 1925 to 1949 have been scrutinized. The tracing of these women has also started through the population ledgers..

**Key research accomplishments**

Preliminary data indicate that we will have no problems to identify a cohort of the size which was in the proposal.

**Reportable outcomes**

No reportable outcomes at this stage.

**Conclusions**

No results as such can be reported but we foresee no difficulties to fulfill our undertaking in our research proposal and having the cohort defined in April, 2000, followed by the planned linkage procedures to the different Swedish registries.

**Appendices**

No appendices.

**Final reports**

A final report, as a paper, will be completed in October, 2000.